

MTA-5010

1 October 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- September 1985

I. OPERATIONAL

A. Monitorial/Editorial

The Israeli religious holiday of Yom Kippur - the day of atonement - began on 24 September at 1630 and ended at sunset the next day. As only military, police, and emergency vehicles are permitted on the streets during this period, a skeleton staff was booked into the Sinai Hotel near the embassy for the night of 24 September. This team manned the bureau during the evening shift on the 24th and during an extended dayshift - from 0700 to 1830 - on the 25th.

HEBREW SECTION

The Hebrew section provided extensive coverage of Israeli Government and media criticism of British Prime Minister Thatcher's decision to receive PLO officials for talks, in response to a BBC Newsbureau request for "immediate filing of Israeli reaction."

TURKISH SECTION

The Turkish section assumed coverage of the Turkish press from 31 July to 30 September in order to permit Nicosia Bureau's contractor to take leave. The section also assumed coverage of Moscow Turkish from 14 to 30 September to accommodate the London Bureau Turkish monitor's leave plans.

B. Lateral Services

At MOD's request, bureau discontinued the recording and air shipping of videotapes of the Jerusalem Television 1800 GMT cast for the Five Cities project, effective 27 September. HQ cited reduced interest in Jerusalem TV videotapes due to lack of Hebrew capability among HQ consumers.

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C. Technical

Bureau received the following items of non-expendable property:

1. Two Watkins-Johnson WJ-8718 radio receivers
2. Two Delta ASA-1/ST audio select assemblies
3. One JVC AV-20ME TV Monitor (received from Nicosia)
4. One Sharp VC-5M6E video cassette recorder (received from Nicosia)

TDY engineer and bureau technicians installed the following roof-top antennas at the new bureau building: Two dipoles, one longwire, one rotatable VHF, two UHF, and one FM.

The installation of the microwave system between the embassy and the new bureau building was completed and the system checked with excellent results.

A single channel Q710 modem enclosure was installed at the [redacted] remote antenna site.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

The revised transportation allowance was extended to bureau FBN employees effective 18 August.

Bureau Engineer [redacted] returned from advance home leave on 22 September. TDY Engineer [redacted] departed 24 September.

B. Building and Grounds

The move to new quarters [redacted] drew near, as three site acceptance meetings were held during the month. The meetings uncovered a number of deficiencies, and formal acceptance was delayed until corrections had been made. Once the site is accepted, it is expected to take another 3 weeks before the actual move will take place, to allow the bureau's technicians time to complete various installations.

C. Other

The Israeli Government issued the "new shekel" on 4 September. The "new shekel" is worth 1000 "old shekels," or approximately 66 cents, according to the official exchange rate. The "new shekel" brings with it a completely new set of coins and will be in circulation side by side with the "old shekel" until the latter is withdrawn in September 1986, offering endless possibilities for confusion, especially to those still calculating their expenses in Israeli pounds, the predecessor of the "old" shekel.

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PanAm on 6 September announced that it is launching a scheduled service providing five flights a week between Ben Gurion airport and New York/Washington D.C., via Paris. The service will begin on 27 October. Flights to Israel will be daily, excluding Mondays and Tuesdays; Flights to U.S. will be daily, excluding Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

III. VISITS

Ambassador Pickering paid a visit to the bureau on 6 September. He received a detailed briefing on FBIS operations and was introduced to several members of the local bureau staff.

STAT A security technician visited bureau on 13 September. The visit resulted in two major enhancements of security at building site.

A two-man team from the Office of the Inspector General conducted an inspection of the bureau from 20-24 September. The IG team members held talks with all bureau staffers and over half of the bureau's foreign national employees.

IV. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

STAT Bureau editors and their spouses attended the 2-day embassy orientation program for new arrivals on 6 and 19 September. The first day was devoted to briefings on the various embassy components, while the second involved a trip to Jerusalem and included a briefing by an aide to the mayor of the city, a tour of certain historical sites, followed by lunch and a briefing by the principal officer at the Jerusalem consulate.

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Chief, FBIS Tel Aviv Bureau

Attachments: a. Production Report
b. Communications Report

Tel Aviv Bureau Production Report for September 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	255740
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	66380
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	782

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	6043.00 min.	10520.00 min.	51.00 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

Clandestine Bavrak Radio in Turkish	11670
Clandestine Bavrak Radio in English	2270
Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian	3490
Clandestine Our Radio in Turkish	3710
Clandestine Voice of Turkish Communist Party in Turkish	5490

CYPRUS

Nicosia ANATOLIA in Turkish	0
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ISRAEL

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew	67530
Jerusalem Domestic Service in English	10220
Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew	17810
Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic	4640
Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew	15670
Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew	7270
Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English	350

TEL AVIV BUREAU MONTHLY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT FOR SEPT. 1985 ATTACHMENT B

1. TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED WAS 255,740 (189,090)
TOTAL NONPUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED WAS 66,380 (62,300)
DAILY WORDAGE FILED AVERAGED 10,737 (8,109)
HIGHEST DAILY WORDAGE FILED WAS 21,580 on 11 September 1985
LOWEST DAILY WORDAGE FILED WAS 3,210 on 14 September 1985
2. OUTAGES ON OUTGOING SKYMUX CIRCUIT TOTALED 3.5 HOURS, 0.7 PERCENT.
OUTAGES ON INCOMING SKYMUX CIRCUIT TOTALED 4.5 HOURS, 0.9 PERCENT.
OUTAGES: 4 September - local equipment failure
7 September - local power surge
12 September - maintenance work on the roof

3. WORDS FILED VIA TELEX DURING OUTAGES OF THE SKYMUX CIRCUIT: 190

NB. Figures from preceding month in Parentheses.

TEL AVIV BUREAU MONTHLY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1985 ATTACHMENT B

1. TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED WAS 302,550 (223,440)

TOTAL NONPUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED WAS 65,250 (74,630)

DAILY WORDAGE FILED AVERAGED 13,136 (12,841)

HIGHEST DAILY WORDAGE FILED WAS 23,880 on 13 February

LOWEST DAILY WORDAGE FILED WAS 3,790 on 9 February

2. OUTAGES ON OUTGOING SKYMUX CIRCUIT TOTALED 5.15 HOURS, 1.1 PERCENT.

OUTAGES ON INCOMING SKYMUX CIRCUIT TOTALED 5.15 HOURS, 1.1 PERCENT.

OUTAGES: 9 February - [] accidentally "took us off circuit".

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12 February - Work on satellite by local TCU

17 February - Problem in Ephemeris Tracking Unit

3. WORDS FILED VIA TELEX DURING OUTAGES OF THE SKYMUX CIRCUIT: 1,250

NB. Figures from preceding month in Parentheses.